

## Trip essay

### Day 1

In the first day, we meet the ajarn at Don Muang airport in 6:00 am, the flight took around 50 minutes to Nakhon Phanom but we take lunch at Mukdahan. Most of the food were similar to Bangkok. For example, deep fired fish and some kind soup just like Tom-yum but different. Then we move to “Savan-SENO” it is the special economic zone where many foreigner industries establish their factory. there have the 5 zones and each zone has their own characteristic. For example, some zone only allows for village, some zone can use only for industries purpose. Laos government has support for many aspects like tax reduction policies and logistic cost which call dry port area and also the all-in-one service. Surly, this can help to boost the economic of Laos PDR. Moreover, the interesting thing that need to mention is that most part of the country accepted the Thai currency and the produce were really cheap as well.

### Day 2

From Laos PDR we move to Vietnam which take around 4 hours in the van, when we arrive at Vietnam border, it took time since some student that hold USA passport need to do some paper to entry Vietnam. Then we move to the “Vinh Moc Tunnel” it is the tunnel that Vietnamese hide during the Vietnam war , whereby some people die in the tunnel because of the American troop drop the bomb to close the entry route. To describe the tunnel, it has three level and each level will have the private room for each family. Some kids were born in the tunnel as well. Second floor is also the living area. At the third level it is for the ground water usage. The guild has discuss that many people have live in the tunnel for three to four year with out seeing the sun. Moreover, at that time the war is very intents, so this is the only place to

hide from American soldier. Then we back at the hotel near the beach which at dinner time most of the food is seafood.

### Day 3

We visited C.P. Vietnam corporation. It is the shrimp production, The CP were the dominant in the agricultural product field back at the time. C.P. in Vietnam has open for the 25 year. Where C.P. has do lot of product agricultural product and animal farms, C.P. has take all of production process from feeding the animal to logistics and send to the retail store. In Vietnam C.P has almost 1,800 employees. Inside the shrimp production, The C.P production were mostly made by human where the labor received 300\$ per month, which is very cheap compared to Thailand but this also imply that C.P. Help the employing in the local area. And the ESR and CSR C.P group also take it serious since they believe on labor is the dynamic of factory. For example, they take care on the labor family who diagnosed some serious disease. In some process were required a lot of human like separate shrimp cover from body but the interesting is that, if the machine can replace in this process the cost of production will significantly reduce and the majority labor will be lay off as well. In the technology spell over the C.P. Cooperation group is willing to share the knowledge. In my opinion, this kind of product is required huge of capital not every one can do it. So C.P. corporation think careful enough to share the knowledge.

### Day 4

On this day we went to “ Vin mall department store ” in Da Nung the design were modern but the interior inside is very far from Thailand, Most of the brand were un know, the super market has a lot of product and some product was import from Thailand but there is no

different in price. For example rice , milk, shampoo and conditioner. Inside the mall there is no movie theater but there are some entertainment part like “ ice skate ” and bubble milk tea. At night we went to eat buffet and the price is more cheap than Thailand. The Da Nung city were in design well same as Barcelona and others European Zone, in my opinion, this is from when the Vietnam were colonizing by French empire, So Vietnamese don't have so much choice but in near future city plan will be so much important as we can observe from Bangkok city, according from Tom Tom index we hold the record in second world traffic city.

#### Day 5

At the Moring, we went to temple for praying the weather is really hot, there are so many tourist in this spot, and then we move to “ Parkson Vinh Trung Plaza ” which is big C the product inside is not that much variety like in Thailand but there are some Vietnam product that use Thai language for the attraction. There is some unique product that Thailand don't have like giant avocado and some weird fruit that look like pie apple but it not. Then we move to SCG office at Da Nung. At SCG office the speaker has been an alumnus in economic faculty at Thammasat university. He say that Vietnam has a lot of advantage like the population but there are some difficult like language and accent from north to south of Vietnam. The speaker also say that there is room to grown the business because from the research there is only three big player in cement market in Vietnam and all of those three player just gain only 16 % of the country, So that SCG decide to expand the market in Vietnam but the didn't use the SCG brand. They use the Vietnamese brand since it is comfortable in term of regulation and license. The SCG also do the research like Position of the brand , competitor , quality , culture which take up to 3 year. In the evening we went to

Hoi An and has walk into the old town where the price is quite high since it is the famous tourist place.

#### Day 6

The show was start on the Ba na hill which is the theme largest theme park in the Vietnam it took almost 1 hr from the hotel to the destination. When the first arrived at 10:00 the place was so crowded and the weather is at extremely hot. There are many tourists especially chinese and Korea. Chinese were still the same in-term of culture where there is no respect to the place and each other. For example, cutting the line, no manner in public place, and lock the que for their friends and family. The ba na hill also whole the record of longest cable car which it took around 10 minute to get into the theme park area. The view is amazing since it is located on the hight mountain. We start with the roller coaster it is not that fast and risky because they providing a break for your own safety, next is car bumping it took almost 30 minutes to wait in the line since there are so many people waiting either. The morning program over all is incredible. On the after noon program we stop to eat the buffet which the test was good. Beside that ajarn also told us to keep watching your belonging and at the end of the day when we getting back to the bus but we still on the cable car, Somehow the cable were suddenly stop and we got stuck for like 1-2 minute. But at the end the solve the problem. However, we still late for the appointment for like 5 minutes late.

#### Day7

In the last day the professor gave us lot of free time where the first appointment in the lobby of the hotel start at 11:00 where usually it is around 7:00-8:00. The first obstacle in the morning is there is other group tour that appointment the same time as our group so the the

elevator is full for most of the time. Me and my room mate need to go up first and then move down. We also miss the breakfast because it finished at 10:00 but we work. And then we when to jade and jewelry store inside there are some souvenir for foreigner as well where the most expensive thing in the store is the big green stone which cause around 1 million baht. Lastly we went to the airport and go back to Bangkok safely to prepare the presentation on the next day.

### Questions

1. What surprises/impresses you most during the trip?
2. How do you see East-West economic route (R9-from Mukdaharn to Laos to Danang) as connectivity in the region? (more potential? problems? or any issues? border crossing?)
3. How do you see Laos and Vietnam in the next 5-10 years?
4. Can you imagine yourself working/living in Laos and/or Vietnam? Why/Why not?
5. Feedback for the trip

### Answer

1. How develop of Vietnam which it could have the potential to be next South Korea. If the quality of human is same as European level Vietnam could overtake the Thailand in near future. The impression is most of the trip is went smoothly and very enjoy most of the exclude the weather.
2. On R9 route from Mukdaharn to Laos is fine everything is okay but from Laos to Vietnam border the road is very small and it should not be the main transportation

since it has only two lane and a lot of motorcycle so the vehicle on the road need to be careful unlike the autobahn in Germany which is large and the quality is at the top level it is good combination of speed and safety.

3. Laos may take a lot of time, In my point of view Laos will not have the significantly change but in the Vietnam case if the government pick the right sectors to promote I think Vietnam can overtake Thailand in term of GDP per capita since the basic factors for FDI is very stable. For example, politics, infrastructure , tax policy , basic institution ,
4. Vietnam has lot of potential and if I had image my self I would choose in Vietnam definitely. For example, work in multinational company that want to expand the market to Vietnam. On the living both counties has the low cost of living but Vietnam will have the advantage on variety of the product while Laos will have less but Laos advantage is no barrier language since Laos language is very similar to Thailand.
5. In conclusion the trip was amazing the feeling from the first day and last day is totally different. Thing went smoothly and picture perfect. Thank you professor and guild for the trip, Couldn't ask for more.